

**CONVOY FOR FREEDOM
TRUCK PROTEST
THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO**

OPERATIONS PLAN

Amended January 31, 2022

January 25, 2022 to February 14, 2022

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Plan Approval

The Ministry of Transportation, Transportation Safety Division, Commercial Inspection & Enforcement Branch, CONVOY FOR FREEDOM TRUCK PROTEST THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO OPERATIONS PLAN is hereby approved:

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Parm Bhatthal
Director,

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Foreword

This plan is to be used as a guide by all Ministry of Transportation (MTO), Transportation Safety Division (TSD), Commercial Inspection and Enforcement Branch (CIEB) responding to the Convoy for Freedom protest across the province.

This Plan is flexible in its design and has the ability to be expanded to manage increasingly complex situations that may occur or provide a reduced response, as determined by the Incident Lead/Director.

The MTO is committed to providing a measured response, to ensure a safe and secure environment for MTO personnel and protestors while limiting the impact to enforcement operations.

Effective communication and on-going dialogue with Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Command and response partners is critical to the success of this Plan.

Proactive communication with the OPP and MTO Operation Division is critical to ensure the safety of the motoring public, protestors, and emergency personnel.

This plan has been developed as a proactive measure to enable a coordinated response to protest action by truck drivers. The following facilities/Truck Inspection Stations (TIS) may be affected:

- Highway 401/Windsor TIS (1)
- Highway 402/Sarina TIS (1)
- Highway 401/Putnam North and South TISs (2)
- Highway 417/Casselman TIS
- Highway 401/Lancaster TIS
- QEW Oakville S TIS
- QEW Vineland TIS
- Highway 401/Whitby TIS
- Rush Bay TIS
- Vermillion Bay TIS
- Arthur St. TIS – Thunder Bay
- Heyden TIS - Sault Ste Marie
- Northshore TIS Highway 17/Elliot Lake
- Highway 17 TIS – North Bay

Current Situation

A group of commercial vehicle drivers and operators from across Canada and the United States are planning a truck protest dubbed “The Convoy for Freedom” that will travel from various points in the province to Ottawa, Ontario. The truck drivers are in protest of recent, mandatory Federal Government vaccination requirements to be eligible to enter Canada.

Background

- In March 2020, a global pandemic was announced – COVID-19. Since then, the Canadian Federal Government has put in place restrictions to protect the public from the spread of the Covid-19 virus, including travel restrictions cross-border.
- As of January 15, 2022, the Federal Government requires that all truck drivers show proof of COVID-19 vaccination to enter Canada.
- A convoy of trucks from across Canada and the U.S. is being organized to reach Ottawa on January 29, 2022 called the “Convoy for Freedom” protesting Federal COVID-19 restrictions. [BearHug - \(canada-unity.com\)](https://canada-unity.com)
- The Ministry has a responsibility to keep Ontario’s transportation network safe and reliable. We expect carriers to comply with any regulation put forward that would ensure critical infrastructure is protected.

Mission Statement

- Ensure public, staff and road safety are not jeopardized by protest activities at Truck Inspection Stations by preparing contingencies, including:
 - Consideration for the closure of TIS facilities as necessitated by protest activities.
 - Implementation of a temporary, mobile enforcement strategy.
 - Providing facility and resource security through presence.
 - To maintain control of the facility to ensure emergency services can respond if necessary.
 - Maintaining minimal impact to the motoring public.
- Work with protest response partners (e.g. OPP and Operations Division’s (OD)) to ensure appropriate intelligence sharing and a coordinated, effective response.
- Provide incident leadership, liaison and effective situational awareness during protest activities.

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Roles and Responsibilities

Incident Lead (Director or Regional Manager)

- Incident Lead shall have overall responsibility for the response to this incident.
- Establish initial communications with the OPP to coordinate the operational response.
- Mobilize / deploy additional resources as required.

Incident Liaison

- Representing CIEB, attend MTO/OPP meetings to:
 - Act as a liaison between response partners, including OPP and Operations Branch.
 - Share appropriate information and consult with response partners, contributing to an effective response.
 - Develop and distribute SitReps for MTO-wide distribution.
 - Communicate directly with Incident Lead and Site Leads.

Regional Managers, CIEB

- Oversee the deployment of this plan in their respective region.
- Support District managers with the deployment of this plan.

Site Lead (Regional Manager, District Enforcement Manager or Enforcement Supervisor, CIEB)

- Site Lead shall attend the scene(s) and supervise all on-scene CIEB resources.
- Make an initial assessment, including impact on public safety (including the protestors), facility operations, redeployment of staff and protest duration.
- Consider requesting additional resources to manage the situation depending on public safety and/or impact on operations.
- Consider closure of ramps, lanes, or the entire facility.
- Act as the MTO Liaison at the scene, under the direction of the Incident Lead and Regional Manager.
- Communicate directly with Incident Lead, Regional Manager and off-site Incident Liaison.
- TIS Site Leads: Provide SitReps every hour, on the hour, commencing 1 hour prior to the commencement of the convoy in your district to the IncidentLead and Incident Liaison if your TIS is on the planned route. [BearHug - \(canada-unity.com\)](https://canada-unity.com)
- Area Site Leads: Provide SitReps in each District to report at the time of or immediately following any interaction, information, assistance requested by MTO with respect to the Convoy.

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- Consider additional site needs (relocating of enforcement vehicles and officer supplies/equipment, suspension of and/or enhanced contracted services (e.g. portable washroom maintenance, etc.)

Enforcement Officers

- Supporting site leads as needed to maintain two (2) MTO staff on site:
 - Attend the scene(s) as a backup to site leads.
- Conducting regular enforcement away from highways affected by the planned convoy route at the direction of the site lead. Officers will be directed to conduct area patrol inspections at laybys and general patrol within the district away from the planned convoy route. Officers will **not** be involved in any commercial vehicle traffic stops of vehicles that are participating in the convoy/protest, unless directed to do so by the site leads. (see attached appendices for each district)
- In the event there is a call for assistance from the OPP or other municipal policing service, the site lead will be contacted and will deploy resources as required. The site lead will notify the incident lead.
- If an imminent road safety or public safety hazard is observed during the passing of the convoy by the inspection station, the site lead will determine the severity of the issue and contact OPP to formulate a strategy to identify and stop that specific vehicle.

Media

- Officers are not authorized to speak with media on behalf of MTO regarding this event.
 - All media requests should be vetted through the normal corporate media call process.
 - MTO Media Line, 416-327-1158 or email: mto.media@ontario.ca
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Execution

This plan will be executed in the following three phases; pre-event, response to the event, and restoring normal operations.

Pre-event – Planning and Preparation

Branch:

- Prepare an Operational Plan for approval.
- Once approved, ensure named entities within the plan (e.g. OPP, MTO CIEB and OD, etc.) are aware of their role in support of the successful implementation of the plan.
- Consider leveraging the MTO Emergency Management and Planning Office to support SitRep implementation during a protest.
- Provide a briefing of the plan to key Commercial Safety and Compliance Branch (CSCB) staff and senior executives, and Minister's Office.
- Maintain a dialogue with the OPP and request advance notification of any potential protest activities.
- Partner with MTO Comms and CSCB in the preparing of key messages.
- Coordinate protest vehicle removal plans with OPP to re-establish operations.

District:

- Schedule minimum staffing at each Truck Inspection Station, including at least one site lead or designated site lead backup (DEM/ES) during the scheduled convoy.
- Designate a standing / meeting area for drivers or protestors to ensure safety measures.
- Designate a media area with parking.
- Ensure sufficient COVID related PPE is available.

Event – Response

- Throughout the protest, monitor protest activity on a continuous basis and respond in a manner appropriate to ensure public and staff safety.
 - **No or Minimal activity at a TIS** – If safe to do so, maintain normal operations. Partial plan activation may be required to deploy Site Lead and/or Incident Liaison.
 - **Significant protest activity at a TIS resulting in operational impact** – Ensure public and staff safety and security of facility (doors locked, etc.)

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- *Incident Lead:*

- Establish communications with the OPP to coordinate the operational response.

- *Site Lead:*

- Ensure COVID safety protocols and all PPE requirements are being met.
- Contact appropriate parties – see Appendix D – Distribution
- Provide notification to all MTO staff (officers, supervisors, managers, etc.) that may be impacted as a result of protest activities.
- Establish communications with the incident lead.
- Make an initial assessment and report.
- Consider closure of ramps, lanes, or the entire facility – coordinate with on-scene OPP for closure of ramps/lanes.
- Act as the MTO Liaison at the scene, under the direction of the Incident Lead and Regional Manager.
- Communicate directly with the Incident Lead and off-site Incident Liaison.
- TIS Site Leads: Provide SitReps every hour, on the hour, commencing 1 hour prior to the commencement of the convoy in your district to the IncidentLead and Incident Liaison if your TIS is on the planned route. [BearHug - \(canada-unity.com\)](https://bearhug.ca/canada-unity.com)
- Area Site Leads: Provide SitReps in each District to report at the time of or immediately following any interaction, information, assistance requested by MTO with respect to the Convoy.
- Consider additional site needs (relocating of enforcement vehicles and officer supplies/equipment, suspension of and/or enhanced contracted services (e.g. portable washroom maintenance, etc.)
- Maintain at least two (2) MTO personnel at convoy locations including at least one site lead (RM) or designated site lead backup (DEM or ES).
- CMV's are permitted to enter the TIS at the discretion of the OPP/MTO. They are to be physically directed where to park to ensure a fire safety route around the facility for emergency response vehicles if necessary (fire, ambulance, staff). Once capacity is obtained no further access will be permitted.
- At least one through lane should be accessible in the front of the TIS and no CMV's will block the line of site between the TIS and the highway. A visible area will be maintained and OPP / MTO vehicles may be parked there to ensure this area remains unobstructed with

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commercial vehicles.

- All participating drivers or protesters shall respect the TIS in respect to garbage and any other potential property damage issues. Staff encountering any issues of this nature are to advise Site Lead who will notify OPP and Incident Lead immediately.
 - If media arrive on site, invite them to park in the designated media area (they should not be setting up in the through lanes or emergency response through lane of the facility).
 - Refer media inquiries to MTO Media Line.
 - Determine what resources are available and decide on a shift-to-shift basis what work assignments will be.
 - Obtain all OPP call signs at the start of each shift to ensure familiarity with the resources available.
 - Obtain a detailed list of CMV and trailer licence plate information that arrive on MTO Inspection Station property.
- Maintain an ongoing log of reportable events on site during the convoy. *All Staff:*
- Report in with the Site Lead at the beginning of each shift for direction or briefing.
 - Ensure following COVID related procedures and all PPE requirements are being met.
 - When assigned to area patrol, check in with Site Lead every three hours for direction and be accessible on the OPP radio at all times.
 - When assigned to area patrol, maintain regular commercial motor vehicle enforcement.
 - Operate in the assigned duties and check in with Site Lead at the end of each scheduled shift prior to departure.

Post Event – Restoring Normal Operations

Site Lead:

- Make proper notifications to Incident Lead and Incident Liaison to be disseminated appropriately.
- Once the convoy has cleared, take actions and confirm the facility is suitable to resume normal operations.
- In consultation with Incident Lead, provide final approval to resume normal or partial operations once the site is verified to be safe and clear.
- Notify Staff normal operations may resume.

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Appendix A – Maps of Convoy Route

Kenora to Thunder Bay – January 26, 2022	 Kenora to Thunder Bay.pdf
Arnprior to Ottawa – January 29, 2022	 Arnprior to Ottawa.pdf
Thunder Bay to Sault Ste. Marie – January 27, 2022	 Thunder Bay to SSM.pdf
Sault Ste. Marie to Ottawa – January 28, 2022	 Sault Ste. Marie to Ottawa.pdf
Windsor to Kingston – January 27, 2022	 Windsor to Kingston.pdf
Sarnia to Kingston – January 27, 2022	 Sarnia to Kingston.pdf

Niagara to Kingston – January 27, 2022	 Niagara to Kingston.pdf
Toronto to Kingston – January 27, 2022	 Toronto to Kingston.pdf
Kingston to Ottawa – January 28, 2022	 Kingston to Ottawa.pdf
Cornwall to Ottawa – January 29, 2022	 Cornwall to Ottawa.pdf
Kingston to Ottawa – January 29, 2022	 Kingston to Ottawa 29th.pdf

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Appendix B – Incident Assignments and District Operational Plans

Incident Lead:

- Jessica Barton, Regional Manager 519-630-1362, Jessica.Barton@ontario.ca

Incident Liaison:

- WEST REGION:
 - Windsor District: Dan Armstrong, District Enforcement Manager, 226-268-4278, Dan.Armstrong@ontario.ca
 - Waterloo District: Jason Droog, District Enforcement Manager, 226-339-3946, Jason.Droog@ontario.ca
 - London District: Anas Bijabhai, District Enforcement Manager, 905-330-0205, Anas.Bijabhai@Ontario.ca
- CENTRAL REGION:
 - Halton District: Joe Curran, District Enforcement Manager, 905-330-0205 Joe.Curran@ontario.ca
 - Niagara District: Nick Korakas, District Enforcement Manager, 289-339-7604, Nick.Korakas@ontario.ca
 - Durham District: Karl Doherty, District Enforcement Manager, 289-404-3331, Karl.Doherty@ontario.ca
- EAST REGION:
 - Ottawa District: Peter Lapensee, District Enforcement Manager, 613-330-1259, Peter.Lapensee@ontario.ca
 - Kingston District: Steve Trapp, District Enforcement Manager, (343) 363-0912, Stephen.trapp@ontario.ca
- NORTH REGION:
 - Northwest District: Michael Wells, District Enforcement Manager, 807-630-7838, Michael.Wells@ontario.ca
 - Northeast District: Peter Jurashtchuk, District Enforcement Manager, 905-289-3866, Peter.Jurashtchuk@ontario.ca

Site Specific Operational Plans and Contacts

Site:

DISTRICT:	PLAN:
West Region:	
Windsor	  Border Protests Jan 23-26, 2022 OPs Plan Convoy for Freedom 2022 OPs F

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Waterloo	 Convoy for Freedom 2022 OPS ę
London	 Convoy for Freedom 2022 OPs F
Central Region:	
Halton	 Convoy for Freedom 2022 OPs F
Niagara	 Convoy for Freedom 2022 OPS ę
Durham	 Convoy for Freedom 2022 OPs F
East Region:	
Kingston	 Convoy for Freedom 2022 OPS ę
Ottawa	 Convoy for Freedom 2022 OPS ę
North Region:	
Northwest	 Convoy for Freedom 2022 OPS ę
Northeast	 Convoy for Freedom 2022 OPS ę

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Appendix C – Significant Protest Activity Checklist/Notes

- **Contact appropriate parties – see Appendix D – Distribution**
- **Provide notification to all MTO staff (officers, supervisors, managers, etc.) that may be impacted as a result of protest activities**
- **Make an initial assessment and report**
- **Consider closure of ramps, lanes, or the entire facility – coordinate with on-scene OPP for closure of ramps/lanes**
- **Act as the MTO Liaison at the scene, under the direction of the Incident Lead**
- **Communicate directly with the Incident Lead**
- **Provide informal SitReps every hour, on the hour, to the Incident Lead and Incident Liaison while the convoy is in your district.**
- **Consider additional site needs (relocating of enforcement vehicles and officer supplies/equipment, suspension of and/or enhanced contracted services (e.g. portable washroom maintenance, etc.)**
- **Ensure MTO personnel presence on site.**
- **Maintain sight line from TIS to highway and at least one through lane for entry and exit of emergency vehicles staff.**

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ADDITIONAL NOTES:

The convoy will enter each district at different times. SitReps to be provided while the convoy is in the district or if/when there is any MTO involvement. Site leads to consult with their Incident Liaison and Incident Lead should there be an incident during the convoy.

The convoy will move through the province on a scheduled route and stops. MTO assistance may be provided upon request from OPP with notification to the Incident Liaison in the district and the Incident Lead.

Once the convoy has passed the TIS or district area, regular operations may resume with consultation with the Incident Liaison in the district and Incident Lead. Should the convoy return, this Operational Plan will again be in effect and the Incident Liaison and Incident Lead should be notified.

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Post Event – Restoring Normal Operations

- **Make proper notifications to Incident Lead to be disseminated appropriately**

- **Once the convoy has cleared, take actions and confirm the facility is suitable to resume normal operations**

- **In consultation with Incident Lead, provide final approval to resume normal or partial operations once the site is verified to be safe and clear**

- **Notify Staff normal operations may resume**

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

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Appendix D – Distribution

Maintained by Incident Lead

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Appendix E – Contact List

MTO – Transportation Safety Division - Commercial Inspection & Enforcement Branch Directory



MTO - TS -
Commercial Inspecti